

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior claim listings and versions.

1-75. (Cancelled)

76. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically modifying an executable file comprising the steps of:

pseudo-randomly permuting a sequence of instructions within the executable file;
identifying one or more instructions of the sequence of instructions and/or one or more variables, said instructions and/or variables at pseudo-randomly chosen locations
within the executable file;

inserting data and/or one or more instructions within said executable file before or after said identified one or more instructions and/or one or more variables, whereby any inserted instruction implements license verification code and any inserted data is license related; and

relocating all instructions and all variables within said executable file affected by the insertion, and adjusting all references to the relocated instructions and/or variables to reflect the relocating of the affected instructions and variables.

77. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that at least part of the data and/or the one or more instructions inserted within the executable file ~~is adapted to enable automatic testing of the integrity of at least one part~~ of the executable file.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that the identification of the one or more instructions and/or one or more variables is based on information obtained from at least one of an initial, intermediate and final state of the creation process resulting in the executable file.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, characterized in that the information is obtained from object files created in the process of generating the executable file from a source code file.

80. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, characterized in that the information is obtained from debug information created in the process of generating the executable file from a source code file.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 78, characterized in that the information is obtained from relocation information created in the process of generating the executable file from a source code file.

82. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that the data and/or the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is adapted~~ ~~to enable the~~ an identification of ~~the~~ a licensee of the software product comprising the executable file.

83. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that the data and/or the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is adapted~~ ~~to enable an~~ identification of the executable file itself.

84. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that the data and/or the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is adapted~~ ~~to enable an~~ identification of ~~the~~ a master file from which the executable file forms a copy before being modified.

85. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is adapted to create a~~ query to an execution control software program for a permission to run the executable

file, and ~~to the one or more inserted instructions~~ control the execution of the executable file in accordance to the permission being granted or denied.

86. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 76, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is adapted to monitor~~ changes to the executable file and the one or more inserted instructions ~~to create a~~ message indicating an infringement of the integrity of the executable file upon a change not being verified.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 85, characterized in that granting the permission to run the executable file comprises validation information in form of a request ticket.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 85, characterized in that the permission to run the executable file is formed by a runtime ticket.

89. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 85, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is adapted to receive a log-off ticket and to the one or more inserted instructions~~ insert the log-off ticket within the executable file.

90. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 89, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file ~~is further adapted to return~~ the log-off ticket to the execution control software program upon terminating the execution of the executable file.

91. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 87, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file comprises verification code for verifying the validity of at least one type of ticket.

92. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 85, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in one or more instructions of the executable file is adapted to increment a counter related to the respective instruction each time said instruction of the executable file is involved.

93. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 92, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in one or more instructions of the executable file is further adapted to send data concerning the value of the counter to the execution control software program upon terminating the execution of the executable file.

94. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 87, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file comprises a provision of means for an execution of code received from the execution control software program.

95. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 94, characterized in that the one or more instructions inserted in the executable file comprises a provision of means for returning a result of the execution of said code to said execution control software program.

96. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 76, characterized by at least one of changing an arrangement of at least two subroutines and changing the arrangement of at least two variables within the executable file.

97. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 96, characterized in that the changing of the arrangement of the at least two subroutines and the changing of the at least two variables is performed by a pseudo-random permutation.

98. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium incorporating a program of instructions configured to perform a method of automatically modifying an executable file, said method comprising:

pseudo-randomly permuting a sequence of instructions within the executable file;

identifying one or more instructions of the sequence of instructions and/or one or more variables, said instructions and/or variables at pseudo-randomly chosen locations within the executable file;

inserting data and/or one or more instructions within said executable file before or after said identified one or more instructions and/or one or more variables, whereby any inserted instruction implements license verification code and any inserted data is license related; and

relocating all instructions and all variables within said executable file affected by the insertion, and adapting all references to the relocated instructions and/or variables to reflect the relocating of the affected instructions and variables.